# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*
## *Office of the Governor*

***Whereas***, Citizens desire and deserve the opportunity to participate meaningfully in all aspects of their community, including their neighborhood, the workplace, and the schools; and,

***Whereas***, Our communities can grow closer through education, awareness, and understanding and benefit from recognizing not only each other's abilities but our commonalities and differences; and,

***Whereas***, Our communities need to be made more aware of the capabilities and provide opportunities for individuals with mental illness to be a part of their communities; and,

***Whereas***, It is in the public interest to offer individuals with mental illness the opportunity to make decisions for themselves and to live and work in our communities where they can exercise their full rights and responsibilities as citizens; and,

***Whereas***, Individuals with developmental disabilities deserve nothing less:

***Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard***, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 2012 as

## *MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH*

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens to observe the month by participating in appropriate programs and activities.

***In Witness Whereof***, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Thirteenth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twelve.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

**Attest:**

Jason Gant

Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State